Clinical trial on centchroman for breast cancer

930. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Drug Research Institute has made successful clinical trials on Centchroman for breast cancer and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether Centchroman can be manufactured and tested on trial as is being done for many similar drugs imported for treatment of cancer under controlled condition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Centchroman is a new compound synthesized at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. Based on the pre-clinical data generated indicating that Centchroman has anti-estrogenic activity as well and based on the recommendations made by the Expert Group that the drug may prove effective for the treatment of advanced breast cancer, the Institute was allowed to conduct multi-centric clinical trials with the drug Centchroman in the treatment of advanced breast cancer at 5 centres. Results of trials have not so far been submitted by the Institute for evaluation.

Chandonium Iodide developed at Panjab University

931. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chandonium Iodide developed at Punjab University has been clinically tested at CDRI for use as neuromuscular agent; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Chandonium Iodide is a new neuromuscular blocking agent. Based on the pre-clinical data generated on the drug, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, had initiated phase II clinical trials in selected patients undergoing surgery. Phase II clinical trials data generated on the drug are being evaluated by the Drugs Controller (India) in consultation with experts for considering to grant permission for clinical trials on extensive population at multiple centres.

Smoking in trains

932. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 318 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised plans for earmarking compartments|coaches for non-smoking passengers; and

(b) whether Government propose to ban sale of cigarettes, bidis, pan and panmasala at all railway stations as these are linked with cancer and other health problems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Instructions have since been issued to the Zonal Railway Administration to earmark one second class III tier coach each as non-smoking on 3 pairs of long distance trains as an experimental measure. Zonal Railways are finalising arrangements to implement the decision from a future date.

(b) There is no proposal at present to ban sale of cigarettes etc. However, a decision has been taken to stop sale of pans at Railway Stations gradually.